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NOTES AND ABSTRACTS.

Luxury, Science, and Art Under Anarchism.—Is it right for the man of science to content himself with the enjoyment of his own scientific pursuits, while the struggle for bread is going on all about him? On the other hand, is a man not performing his whole duty to mankind when he produces for the world with the greatest possible activity that which he is capable of producing? Kropotkin presses the former of these questions in these words: "I ask in what respect does the scholar who pursues science in order to pass his life agreeably differ from the drunkard who also seeks in life only immediate pleasure, and finds it in wine?"

While appreciating the sentiment that lies back of this question, we need not adhere to the idea of the complete subordination of science and art to material needs, which is implied in it. Nor is it evident that the scientist obeys any other motive than that which impels all men alike, namely, the strongest motive. For it is through egoism that the purest altruism works.

The work of the scientist should be judged by its ultimate social effects. Pasteur, Lister, Roux, may believe themselves enemies of socialism, but in leaving us theoretical microbiology, and the innumerable results implicitly contained in their discoveries, they work more certainly for the future of social justice than those spirits, enflamed with love, who, with the best intentions in the world, believe that they are furthering it by throwing bombs in public places.

Kropotkin's proposal to impose equal manual labor on all results, in the first place, in an injustice to the men of thought, who must carry on their own peculiar work in addition to their share of the universal manual labor. It is possible that a great man, after the realization of a brilliant discovery, might be relieved from such drudgery. Pasteur would probably have spent two-thirds of his time cultivating wheat or raising onions, before having even a chance to demonstrate his ability. Thus a second result is the waste of time, manifested in imperfect production and a diminution of social energy.

The question of luxury under anarchism is also a pertinent one. The luxuries of one age are the necessities of succeeding ages; the simplest things—the thimble, clothes even—were luxuries once. Society cannot afford to cease developing in this regard. Granting the need of diffusing comforts among all classes, yet we cannot afford universally to replace research by popularization, nor to arrest the production of objects of luxury under the pretext that not everyone can enjoy them.

I am then obliged to ask how the needs of luxury will be satisfied in a communistic society, since it is a condition essential to progress; and this question will not yield even to that of bread.—ALFRED NAQUET, "Luxe, science et arts dans l'anarchie," in *L'humanité nouvelle*, October, 1903. E. B. W.

A Sociological View of the "Native Question."—The "native question" arises whenever highly civilized nations colonize territories occupied by inferior races. The phenomena of contact, however, differ fundamentally according to the character of the races concerned and the climate of the area of contact. European colonization of temperate regions has almost always meant the extinction of the native peoples, and thus the native question in such cases is not a permanent one. In the tropics, however, the native question is ever-recurring and permanent. Immigration of Europeans is almost exclusively of males, who form a small, but usually ascendant, element of the population. If partial intermarriage occurs, several rival classes appear, which give the state an unstable and contentious character, as in the case of Latin colonization in the tropics. The pre-eminent virtue of toleration in dealing with native races, so well understood

by the Phœnicians and the Romans, has in modern times oftenest been supplanted by a proselytizing national egotism which, regardless of the relativity of institutions and customs to the conditions in which they are found, has steadfastly pursued a course of interference. The British alone seem to have learned the wisdom of tactful acquiescence in all native arrangements not absolutely antagonistic to the essentials of European codes.

The labor question has proved one of the most vexing in the colonization of the tropics. With European labor impossible, and open slavery no longer tolerated by moral standards, and coolie labor subject to grave abuses, the tropics remain in a state of, to say the least, arrested development. The latest tropical colonizers, the Germans, frankly propose a return to some method of "compulsory labor."

In governing tropical colonies three essentials are toleration, firmness, and a rational education, using the last term in its broadest sense. Nothing could be more absurd than the attempt to make miniature French departments out of material scarcely fit for anything but absolute despotism. A ready-made government and civilization cannot be superimposed upon a native race. But with the greatest possible noninterference must go absolute firmness in maintaining whatever has been decided upon. The importance of the third element of success is seen in the results achieved by medical missions and missions that teach trade. Civilizing agencies must deal first with the physical and the industrial and then pass to the inculcation of the most elementary of political, religious, and moral ideas. In these ways something may be done for the "lower races" in spite of conditions which are doubly disheartening because of the present acceleration of the pace of civilization.—ALBERT G. KELLER, in *Yale Review*, November, 1903.
E. B. W.

An International Congress of Hygiene and Demography was held at Brussels September 2-8, under the patronage of King Leopold. It elected as its honorary president Prince Albert, heir to the throne of Belgium, who addressed the congress in these significant words: "Men are vitally concerned, and rightly so, with the principles of industrial and professional hygiene, whose application concerns the health of millions of workmen and upon which depend the strength and destiny of future generations. But although laws may do much, yet their efficacy has its limits. It is necessary that hygiene should be, not only in our codes, but also in our customs. To this end an active and persistent propaganda is needed to popularize the practice of hygiene by the pen, the spoken word, and above all by deeds."

The congress was divided into two parts, the one concerned with hygiene and the other with demography. The former division considered, among other questions, that of diseases peculiar to miners, the interesting question of workmen's dwellings, and that of fatigue, particularly of manual laborers. Among the conclusions reached in relation to this last subject is the following, which is interesting from the standpoint of labor legislation: "The fourth section is of opinion that, due to the insufficiency of actual scientific data, it is not possible as yet to furnish numerical bases for the organization of labor so far as the matter of fatigue is concerned." That is to declare, in short, that existing legislation regarding the length of the working day for adults is absolutely empirical.

The second division, on demography, took up, among other topics, the statistics of births and deaths. It learned with satisfaction that the classification of causes of death with which M. Bertillon was occupied for many years has now been adopted and applied for a total population of more than 120 million persons. A very animated discussion arose in connection with the defense on the part of M. Canderlier of his thesis that population increases or diminishes in proportion as economic conditions are or are not favorable; or, in other words, that the law of population expresses itself by the relation which exists between needs and resources. Such great divergence of opinion prevailed regarding the subject that M. Julin, secretary of the division, took occasion to recommend a method for the observation of facts, similar to that employed by the Society of Social Economics in its monographing of families. In this way the moral factors which no doubt

play an important part in the question of population can be separated and studied. —K. DE B., "Congrès International d'Hygiène et de Démographie," in *La réforme sociale*, November 16.

E. B. W.

Social Conference of the Friends in England.—No finer or more practically effective social work is done in England than by members of the Society of Friends. Their newer meeting-houses resemble social settlement buildings, with the most ample quarters and best equipment for varied educational, industrial, social, and religious work. Some members of the society, who have become captains of the large cocoa industries, are marshaling their resources for the social betterment of conditions in and about their great plants with an ethical insight, a public spirit and a vision of the ideal far ahead of their times. These practical endeavors have led to a summer school and conference on social questions held at Woodbrooke, near Birmingham.

One of its most significant discussions was that by Mr. Joseph Rountree on "The Present Critical Condition of the Licensing Question." The following are among the "Propositions" to the discussion of which his paper was devoted: (1) that the consumption of alcohol in a country can be enormously affected by the force of law and of social arrangement; (2) that that portion of the trade which cannot be suppressed should be placed under effective control; (3) that an effective control of a character calculated to effect a great reduction in consumption is not likely to be brought about so long as the public-house trade remains in private hands; (4) that it is altogether improbable that the nation will long permit the monopoly profits of the retail trade to pass entirely into private hands, and that public management on a large scale in the near future is inevitable; (5) that when the public-house trade is taken out of private hands and is conducted either by municipalities or by controlling companies, it is essential that the appropriation of profits shall be determined by law, and be such that localities can have no inducement either to stimulate or to continue the traffic for the sake of the profit which it yields.

Another significant discussion was that by Mr. A. L. Smith, of Balliol College, on the crisis in the administration of the poor-law. The increasing ratio of pauperism to population the speaker attributed mostly to the new system of outdoor relief, which has sprung up under the discretion recently given the guardians, and which threatens to equal the abuse prior to the enactment of the law in 1834. The magnitude of the poor-law expenditure in London may be seen in the total for 1901 of £3,770,926—a rate of 1s 11½d on every £1 of assessable property.—PROFESSOR GRAHAM TAYLOR, in *Commons*, November, 1903.

E. B. W.

The Moral Principles of Compensation in Temperance Reform.—This article applies immediately to the situation in England. The question proposed is: What just claim for compensation exists when the state withdraws certain trading rights of the character of a monopoly, which was granted and is held under certain legal and moral conditions? The discussion is with special reference to the liquor traffic and may be presented under the following heads:

a) The argument that if any compensation is due, it must be to the public which has suffered, and not to the publicans who have inflicted the wrong, is not convincing.

b) Direct and indirect violation of the law on the part of members of the trade is a complex and difficult problem, and calls for consideration in each case.

c) As to the "unearned increment": A license for which a very small sum is paid becomes worth thousands of pounds: is it fair that the state which has given this munificent gift should have to buy it back again? If the license-holder himself received the gift, it would not be unjust to refuse compensation or to give very small compensation. If the holder has bought his license in open market and paid large sums for it, the "unearned increment" has little application.

d) There is no legal right to the renewal of a license. The granting or renewal of licenses is at the discretion of the magistrates. The question of com-

pensation then is one of certain expectancies, not of any rights in the proper sense of the word. Claim for compensation for loss of expectancies may be economic or moral, social or individual. The economic grounds, security and stability of property, tell strongly for considerable compensation. But the economic is partly moral, having regard to the effect of the thing expected. Recent and multiplied decisions have made it clear that in the letter of the law the renewal of licenses as well as their granting is entirely discretionary, and hence expectancy from such source is technically unjustifiable. But confirmation being required for new grants and not for renewals has created a certain presumption in favor of expectancy; as has also the "conditional" licensing requiring certain structural conditions. The destruction of licensed business of retail involves the interests of certain shareholders in brewery or retail interests. The proper recognition of the claims of such semi-innocent parties is difficult, but seems to constitute a claim for compensation that has some force.—F. J. WESTERN, "Compensation in Temperance Reform," in *Economic Review*, April 15, 1903.

T. J. R.

The Promotion of Industrial Efficiency (*continued*).—The agencies for promoting the social and physical comfort of the workers, found in many of the German and in a few of the English and American works, are eminently satisfactory from one point of view, and undoubtedly tend to improve the health of the workers and their families, and to promote good relations between the heads of the firms and their employees. But these agencies do not promote the output of work to the extent that premium or bonus payments do. As the battle of industrial competition will in the future be fought largely on the ground of rapid manufacture, it is probable that a modification of the bonus system, on the lines of the American premium system of payment will be adopted on the eastern side of the Atlantic. Such a system need not displace the agencies for promoting the social and physical education of the workers already established, but might be worked in conjunction with these. My belief that a modified form of the American premium system will displace other profit-sharing systems of payment is based on the fact that most men prefer a pound in the pocket to a post-dated check on a shaky bank, and would rather receive a premium of 50 per cent. on their income paid weekly than a bonus of 5 per cent. or less paid annually.

The chief causes producing failure in profit-sharing schemes in the United Kingdom have been the failure of business to earn profits, and dissatisfaction of the employees with their share of the profits when earned. The second cause has hindered progress more than the first. The difficulty might be overcome by making profit-sharing more attractive to the average employee. This could be effected by increasing the bonus fund to an amount equal to between 20 per cent. and 40 per cent. of the annual wages, and in paying one-half or two-thirds of this weekly instead of annually. The amount of this weekly payment would be based on the efficiency of the employee's work, and would be calculated in engineering works by the Halsey system. The remaining one-half or one-third would be invested in the name of the individual worker in the company's ordinary shares, and would carry the usual rate of interest. When a worker left the employ of a firm, he would receive a cash payment equivalent to the market value of his shares, plus the accumulated interest. Would not this possible increase prove a very effective incentive to better work, and to greater devotion to the employer's interests? — J. B. C. KERSHAW, in *Engineering Magazine*, July, 1903. A. B.

New York City Building Trades.—The joint arbitration agreement between the Building Trades Employers' Association of New York city and the labor organizations in the same trades has been subscribed to by the twenty-seven associations of employers concerned and a majority of the unions in the building industry, and the first dispute under this agreement has been arbitrated in accordance with the provisions of the agreement. On account of the magnitude of the interests involved, and the importance of the joint agreement as one of the hopeful signs in the labor situation, this event is one of unusual significance.

Some of the most important items in the agreement are substantially as follows: Each employers' association and each union shall elect two arbitrators, all of whom taken together shall constitute a general board of arbitration, to which shall be referred certain special questions and all disputes not settled by the special boards of arbitration. These special boards shall be organized by the executive committee of the general board, which committee shall consist of an equal number of employers and employees. A special board shall be organized for the settlement of each dispute as it shall arise, and the employer and union or unions concerned shall be allowed to designate such members of the general board to act as their representatives on the special board as they may see fit, provided only that such designated arbitrators shall not be concerned in the trade in which the dispute occurs. Arbitration papers, stating the grounds of the dispute and containing the agreement of the parties to abide by the decision of a majority of the board, or by that of an umpire who may be selected, shall be drawn up. Union representatives on the arbitration boards are guaranteed re-employment by their firm or corporation when the special case on which they have served has been disposed of. The members of the Employers' Association agree to employ only union labor, except where the number of such union laborers is insufficient, such insufficiency to be passed upon by the board of arbitration of the particular trade concerned. Non-union men hired under such circumstances shall become members of the union if competent. All existing trade agreements remain in full force, except in so far as they may conflict with the above arbitration plan.—*New York Department of Labor Bulletin*, September, 1903.

E. B. W.

The Declining Birth-Rate and its Cause.—Recent statistics show pretty conclusively that the birth-rate among families of college graduates, at least in the East, is not large enough to keep up their numbers, and the question at once arises whether this tendency is confined to the intellectual classes, or whether it applies to others as well. In either case it is of the utmost importance to understand the cause of the phenomenon. But statistics put the whole of the native population of Massachusetts in the same position as the college graduate, and the question accordingly seems to be one of the upper class or of the older part of the population, and not simply a question of the educated classes.

To social causes, primarily, are due the differences in the fecundity of civilized peoples. Among progressive peoples a strong tendency exists for men to improve their condition, and in a democratic country society yields somewhat to efforts in this line. If competition is severe, it will be necessary for men to make great effort to raise their standard of living, or sometimes even to maintain the accustomed standard. Population is regulated by the intensity of the effort made. The loss in the native population in Massachusetts is due to the effort necessary to raise or maintain the social position caused by a strong competition brought on largely by the influx of foreigners who tend to compete with the natives, but do not share with them the dread of lowering the social standard. The economic question is by no means the most important one to consider in the problem of immigration. It is a race-question, and the birth-rate shows the racial group that is to survive. If, however, it is found that the stratum of society which has the highest development tends to be blotted out by the increase of the lower strata, the cause of progress will demand that the course of natural selection be interfered with by removing the continual external pressure on the native stock.—FREDERICK A. BYSHEE, in *Popular Science Monthly*, August, 1903.

T. J. R.